

Truckers Convoy and Protective Services

Key Messages for Ministerial Briefing – February 5, 2022 12:20 PM

- We are expecting the number of protestors to jump up this weekend. Just before noon today there were about 500 people on Parliament Hill, Wellington Street and the surrounding area, with crowds continuing to increase. Of note, the crowd includes demonstrators on horseback.
- It does appear that there will be fewer counter-protestors than were originally planned. I understand that organizers felt it would be in the interests of public safety to avoid potentially inflaming the situation.
- Approximately 500 trucks were in the downtown core as of this morning, along with 10 tractors parked the wrong way on Albert Street. Ottawa Police Service made several attempts to redirect them to the Coventry parking lot, which turned out to be unsuccessful. The farm tractors operators would not cooperate or follow officers' directions and drove towards Albert and Lyon Street, where they are currently parked. The emergency lane is still clear and opened in the middle of Albert. The tractor operators are not interacting with anyone.
- 13 additional convoys are expected to arrive in the NCR today and tomorrow, estimated to include 400-500 vehicles.
- In addition, the SQ has reported three convoys on their way from Quebec, totalling 110 vehicles and two 18-wheelers.
- While road closures are in effect, downtown is not 100% closed off. Ottawa Police will have rolling closures, but have noted that people tend to find a way when motivated.
- As I mentioned yesterday, the RCMP has deployed additional resources to support OPS. While we need to consider our own operational demands with

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other protests underway across the country, we are open to providing what support we can in Ottawa.

- I had a call with Ottawa Police and others this morning. Chief Sloly has advised that seven organizers represent about 80% of the protestors. They are willing to negotiate more, but right now Ottawa does not have any more concessions to make.
- He did indicate that these organizers are also open to negotiating with another level of government. They have said they want to be meaningfully heard at a high level, such as at the Prime Minister or Ministerial level.
- OPS has identified how fuel and other supplies are coming in and are looking at options to choke that off, including criminal charges.
- With respect to the structure and group in Confederation Park, Ottawa Police attempted negotiations yesterday, but these ended without positive results as the only promise from the group was violence if efforts were made to move them out. Chief Sloly has indicated this is a volatile group. He is still trying to negotiate, but is looking at other options. While he would like to move them out this weekend, this will depend on the temperature of people involved.
- While the GoFundMe funds have been cut off, money is still coming in to the protestors. Scrutiny is being applied to financial transactions, and there is the feasibility of a proceeds of crime investigation.
- On the issue of tow trucks, this is a problem in Ottawa, Coutts and likely elsewhere. The heavy equipment to move these types of trucks – and the experience to operate them – is limited. Of those that are available, there are safety concerns in going in to the protest areas with fear of retaliation.
- Options are being explored as to how to incentivize cooperation, but the safety element will still need to be addressed.

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- On the subject of the solidarity protests, there are numerous anticipated convoys in BC today. Given the time difference, details are not yet available, but at last count there were at least a dozen planned protests across the province – largely involving slow rolls and rallies.
 - Known locations include Kelowna, Salmon Arm, Osoyoos, Powell River, Victoria, Fraser Valley, Campbell River, Fort Nelson, Tofino, Fort St. John, and 100 Mile House.
- Toronto, Quebec City, Winnipeg, Regina and Victoria are also expecting protests of their own near their respective provincial legislatures today.
 - **Toronto:** Open source reporting indicates significant crowds in downtown core in Toronto but it's being controlled and no intersections have been blocked.
 - **Quebec City:** There were four trucks at the National Assembly just before noon, and 150 people were in attendance last night. The situation is peaceful.
 - **Winnipeg:** The Freedom Convoy Support demonstration is ongoing. Winnipeg Police Service has blocked off an area around and near the Manitoba Legislature to allow for the influx of these large vehicles. The total number of persons in attendance and length of protest is unknown at this time. We have received a report of protestors being knocked down by an impatient driver. Winnipeg Police Service are the POJ and are fully engaged in the planning and response to this event.
- The Situation in Coutts Alberta also persists. The Coutts Site is stable, with lanes open in both directions.
- The RCMP checkpoint 18 km north of Coutts is tenuous with pressure building. This site is almost a blockade, but for now one lane is open in each direction. There are 200 civilian vehicles, 40 farm tractors, and 50 semi-trucks. We are patrolling to ensure the road in between stays open.

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- Social Media advises of 400-500 people riding their horses down from Milk River to the checkpoint at approximately 12:00 pm Alberta time today. This could have a significant impact at CP10.
- There is consideration being given to opening another checkpoint (CP10A) further north of original checkpoint (CP10).
- CBSA and USBP may have to open Del Bonita crossing based on what happens at Coutts today, but Del Bonita is not conducive for truck traffic. Both agencies are on stand by.
- Finally, the Sweetgrass, Montana POE, is the only port in Montana that is set up to inspect cattle crossing the border from Alberta. The Minister of Alberta Agriculture and Forestry has been advised that US Meat Inspectors are not planning on moving meat inspection operations to the two alternative POEs opposite of Del Bonita and Carway.
- Commercial tow truck drivers still not cooperating as they feel intimidated and threatened if they cooperate, plus some have allegiance with protestors and others may have been paid off to not cooperate, on both sides of the border. Evidence will have to be collected in this regard.
- K Division has submitted a request to use CAF heavy equipment to tow/remove semi-trucks as required in the course of enforcement. The Province of Alberta is in the process of submitting a similar request to the GOC for military assistance.
- Overall, all options are still being explored, including injunctions and other legal avenues – such as breach of contract with the tow truck drivers.

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